

**CLAIMS**

5 What is claimed is:

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1. A system for enabling system users to view a status of one or more system users and to establish communications with the one or more system users using a user indicator, the system comprising:

10 user indicator presentation means for presenting at least one user indicator within an electronic document, each user indicator being associated with at least one system user;

status means for presenting status indicators with the user indicators, the status indicator indicating the status of the user associated with the user indicator; and

communication means for enabling a user to activate the user indicator to initiate communications with the user associated with the user indicator.

15 2. The system of claim 1, further comprising preference presentation means for presenting a system user's preference for receiving communications.

3. The system of claim 1, further comprising updating means for updating the status of the one or more system users.

20 4. The system of claim 1, further comprising conference communication means for enabling the one or more system users to establish conference communications with the one or more system users.

5. The system of claim 4, wherein the conference communication means enable the one or more system users to share at least one application.

25 6. A method for enabling system users to view a status of one or more system users and to establish communications with the one or more system users using a user indicator, the system comprising the steps of:

presenting one or more user indicators within an electronic document, each user indicator being associated with at least one system user;

30 presenting a status of the one or more system users with a user indicator, the status including the user's availability for communication; and

5 establishing a communication link with the one or more system users based on that user's indicated availability.

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of enabling the one or more system users to establish one or more communication preferences.

8. The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of updating the status of the one  
10 or more system users.

9. The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of sharing at least one application with the one or more system users.

10. A system for enabling system users to view a status of one or more system users and to establish communications with the one or more system users using a user indicator, the  
15 system comprising:

a user indicator presentation module for presenting at least one user indicator within an electronic document, each user indicator being associated with at least one system user;

a status determining module that determines the status of the one or more system  
20 users; and

a communication module that establishes a communication link with the one or more system users.

11. The system of claim 10, further comprising a communication options preference presentation module that presents a system user's preference for receiving  
25 communications.

12. The system of claim 10, further comprising a status updating module that updates the status of the one or more system users.

13. The system of claim 10, further comprising a conference communication module that enables the one or more system users to establish conference communications with the  
30 one or more system users.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the conference communication module enables the one or more system users to share at least one application.

5 15. A processor readable medium having processor readable code embodied therein for enabling a system user to obtain a user status and establish a communication link using the user status comprising:

A2 user indicator presenting processor readable code that presents at least one user indicator within an electronic document, each user indicator being associated with at least one system user;

10 status providing processor readable code that provides the status of the one or more system users; and

communication establishing processor readable code that establishes a communication link with the one or more system users.

15 16. The medium of claim 15, further comprising communication preference presenting processor readable code that presents a system user's preference for receiving communications.

17. The medium of claim 16, further comprising communication prioritizing processor readable code that enables the one or more system users to prioritize the preferences.

20 18. The medium of claim 15, further comprising status updating processor readable program code that updates the status of the one or more system users.

19. The medium of claim 15, further comprising conference communication processor readable code that enables the one or more system users to establish conference communications with the one or more system users.

25 20. The medium of claim 15, wherein the conference communication processor readable code enables the one or more system users to share at least one application.

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